Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Holy Texts**

***Excerpts from Holy Texts of Era 1 Belief Systems***

Directions: Read each excerpt and identify parts of the excerpts that 1) call upon a higher power (i.e. God), 2) use poetic language, 3) mention themes related to virtues or betterment, and 4) use repetition.

***Excerpt A:***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Excerpt from**  **Holy Text** | **Calls upon Higher Power (e.g. God)** | **Uses Poetic**  **Language** | **Themes Related to Virtues or Betterment** | **Uses**  **Repetition** |
| A.)  In this world may obedience triumph over disobedience,  May peace triumph over discord,  May generosity triumph over niggardliness,  May love triumph over contempt,  May the true-spoken word triumph over the false-spoken word,  May truth triumph over falsehood.  -Yasna 60.5 |  |  |  |  |

***Excerpt B:***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Excerpt from**  **Holy Text** | **Calls upon Higher Power** | **Poetic**  **Language** | **Themes Related to Virtues or Betterment** | **Repetition** |
| B)  May my speech be one with my mind, and may my mind be one with my speech.  O thou self-luminous Brahman, remove the veil of ignorance from before me, that I may behold thy light.  Do thou reveal to me the spirit of the scriptures.  May the truth of the scriptures be ever present to me.  May I seek day and night to realize what I learn from the sages.  May I speak the truth of Brahman.  May I speak the truth.  May it protect me.  May it protect my teacher.  Om… Peace-peace-peace.  -Rig Veda |  |  |  |  |

***Excerpt C:***

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| **Excerpt from**  **Holy Text** | **Calls upon Higher Power** | **Poetic**  **Language** | **Themes Related to Virtues or Betterment** | **Repetition** |
| C.)  Whatever living beings there be: feeble or strong,  Tall, stout or medium, short, small or large, without exception; seen or unseen, those dwelling far or near, those who are born or those who are to be born, may all beings be happy!  Let none deceive another, not despise any person whatsoever in any place. Let him not wish any harm to another out of anger or ill-will.  Just as a mother would protect her only child at the risk of her own life, even so, let him cultivate a boundless heart toward all beings.  Let his thoughts of boundless love pervade the whole world: above, below and across without any obstruction, without any hatred, without any enmity.  Whether he stands, walks, sits or lies down, as long as he is awake, he should develop this mindfulness. This they say is the noblest living here.  Not falling into wrong views, being virtuous and endowed with insight, by discarding attachment to sense desires, never again is he reborn.  -*Metta Sutta*, in the *Sutta-Nipata* |  |  |  |  |

***Excerpt D:***

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| **Excerpt from**  **Holy Text** | **Calls upon Higher Power** | **Poetic**  **Language** | **Themes Related to Virtues or Betterment** | **Repetition** |
| D.)  See, all things howsoever they flourish  Return to the root from which they grew.  This return to the root is called Quietness;  Quietness is called submission to Fate;  What has submitted to Fate has become part of the always-so.  To know the always-so is to be Illumined;  Not to know it, means to go blindly to disaster.  -Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching,* Chapter 16 |  |  |  |  |

***Excerpt E:***

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| **Excerpt from**  **Holy Text** | **Calls upon Higher Power** | **Poetic**  **Language** | **Themes Related to Virtues or Betterment** | **Repetition** |
| E.)  The Master said: “Shen! My teaching contains one all-pervading principle.”  “Yes,” replied Tseng Tzu.  When the Master had left the room the disciples asked, “What did he mean?” Tsend Tzu replied, “Our Master’s teaching is simply this: Conscientiousness to self and consideration for others.”  -*The Analects of Confucius*, IV. 15 |  |  |  |  |

***Excerpt F:***

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| **Excerpt from**  **Holy Text** | **Calls upon Higher Power** | **Poetic**  **Language** | **Themes Related to Virtues or Betterment** | **Repetition** |
| F.)  Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Take to heart these instructions with which I charge you this day. Impress them upon your children. Recite them when you stay at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them serve as a symbol on your forehead; inscribe them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.  -Deuteronomy 6:4-9 |  |  |  |  |

***Excerpt G:***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Excerpt from**  **Holy Text** | **Calls upon Higher Power** | **Poetic**  **Language** | **Themes Related to Virtues or Betterment** | **Repetition** |
| G.)  Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.  Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.  Give us this day our daily bread.  And forgive us our dets, as we forgive our debtors.  And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  For this in the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. A’-men.  -Matthew 6:9-13 |  |  |  |  |

***Excerpt H:***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Excerpt from**  **Holy Text** | **Calls upon Higher Power** | **Poetic**  **Language** | **Themes Related to Virtues or Betterment** | **Repetition** |
| H.)  Al-Faithah  In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful  Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds,  The Compassionate, the Merciful,  Master of the Day of Judgment,  Only You do we worship, and only You do we implore for help.  Lead us to the right path,  The path of those You have favoured  Not those who have incurred Your wrath or have gone astray.  -Qur’an 1:1-7  Righteousness is not to turn your faces towards the East and the West; the righteous is he who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the angles, the Book and the Prophets; who gives of his money, in spite of loving it, to the near of kin, the orphans, the needy, the wayfarers and the beggars, and for the freeing of slaves; who performs the prayers and pays the alms-tax.  -Qur’an 2:177 |  |  |  |  |